## **House Armed Services Committee**

**DEMOCRATS** 

For immediate release April 19, 2005

Ike Skelton, Ranking Member <a href="http://www.house.gov/hasc">http://www.house.gov/hasc</a> democrats

#### **Contact:**

Loren Dealy, HASC Democratic Communications (202) 226-6339

Chuck Fant Rep. Spratt (202) 225-5501

Aaron Hunter Rep. Davis (202) 225-2040

# **Spratt and Davis Declare Democratic Support for Military Families**

Washington D.C.—Today Representatives John Spratt (SC) and Susan Davis (CA), both members of the House Armed Services Committee, spoke on the House floor to express Democratic support for legislation and programs designed to benefit the families of our military men and women.

### Rep. Spratt

"These troops are the finest any country has ever fielded, and they deserve not only our admiration, but our support. Not just for them, but for their families back home.

"There are three levels on which support for our troops should come. First to those on active duty and their families. Second to the Guard and Reserve, with families and jobs and businesses and debts to pay. Third, to the veterans and retirees, who now look to the country to keep the promises made to them.

"Every time we take up a defense-related bill, we should ask ourselves: What we are doing in this bill to meet the needs of our service men and women and their families?"

### Rep. Davis

"When the military prepares for deployment, so do their families. As a former military spouse myself, I am incredibly grateful and humbled by their unique sacrifices."

"With so much of our attention on other things, their contributions often go unnoticed and under appreciated. I want our military families to know that we are working to improve the family support infrastructure that exists for them."

"Democrats are finding more innovative ways to fund childcare, provide a fully resourced, comprehensive health care benefit, and increase the value of the commissary and exchange benefit.

"We have also made great progress with addressing the demand for family housing. And are exploring ways to enhance educational and employment opportunities for military spouses."